

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7834

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1434

DEPT PASS HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, DJ, ET, SO

SUBJ: FURTHER ETHIOPIAN COMMENT ON ASST SECY MOOSE VISIT TO SOMALIA

REF: (A) DJIBOUTI 434 (NOTAL); (B) ADDIS ABABA 1382 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY AND COMMENT: IN PAGE TWO EDITORIAL TITLED "FACE SAVING MACHINATION," ETHIOPIAN PRESS CONTINUED CAMPAIGN OF LINKING US AND SOMALIA IN "PLOT" TO SUBVERT DJIBOUTI. AS IN PAST, EDITORIAL CLOSELY FOLLOWS LANGUAGE OF FOREIGN MINISTRY (MOFA) STATEMENT (OF MARCH 25) CLAIMING PLOT INVOLVES HANDOVER OF DJIBOUTI TO SOMALIA THROUGH COLLABORATION OF SOME QUISLINGS IN DJIBOUTI'S POLITICAL CIRCLES. EDITORIAL ALLEGES PLAN TO CREATE ANTAGONISM AMONG DJIBOUTI'S VARIOUS ETHNIC GROUPS HAS ALREADY BEEN PUT INTO PRACTICE AND THAT "GENUINE" PATRIOTS EITHER HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED OR MAKE TO FLEE COUNTRY. IT IS FURTHER AVERRED THAT ETHIOPIA WILL STRIVE FOR MAINTENANCE OF INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF DJIBOUTI IN COLLABORATION WITH FREEDOM-LOVING PEOPLES OF TERRITORY, AFRICA AND REST OF WORLD. ALTHOUGH IT NOT CERTAIN AT THIS POINT IF ETHIOPIA INTENDS TO INTERVENE IN DJIBOUTI, FOUNDATION IS CLEARLY BEING LAID FOR FUTURE EVENTUALITY. PRIOR TO DJIBOUTI'S

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INDEPENDENCE, ETHIOPIA MEDDLED EXTENSIVELY IN INTER-ETHNIC POLITICS OF TERRITORY HAVING ONLY MINIMAL RESOURCES. RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO ETHIOPIANS NOW TO SUBSTANTIALLY AFFECT INTERNAL POLITICS OF DJIBOUTI AND REDUCED SOMALI CAPABILITIES TO CHALLENGE THEM APPEAR TO HAVE CREATED MORE PROMISING PROSPECTS FOR ETHIOPIANS TO MAKE MISCHIEF AND ATTEMPT TO INSTALL MORE

OPENLY PRO-ETHIOPIAN GOVT IN TERRITORY. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

1. MARCH 28 ETHIOPIAN HERALD (GOVT OWNED AND CONTROLLED) EDITORIAL EXPANDED ON MOFA MARCH 25 STATEMENT BY CHARACTERIZING ASST SEC MOOSE'S VISIT TO SOMALIA AS "FINAL TOUCH OF FACE-SAVING STRATEGY...TO STOP TIDE OF POPULAR ANGER FROM ENGULFING SOMALIA'S RULERS." EDITORIAL CLAIMED NEW TATIC OF US IMPERIALISTS IS TO HAND OVER DJIBOUTI TO SOMALIA. THIS IS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED BY SOMALI SOLDIERS WHO HAVE ENTERED DJIBOUTI WITH THEIR WEAPONS AND WHO WILL FAN ANTAGONISM BETWEEN VARIOUS ETHNIC GROUPS.

2. ON OTHER HAND, EDITORIAL ASSERTS, ETHIOPIA'S STAND ON DJIBOUTI IS FOR CONTINUANCE OF INDEPENDENT ENTITY AS PIVOTAL FOR STABILITY AND SECURITY OF HORN. ETHIOPIA HAS CONSISTENTLY ADVOCATED THIS IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS AND WILL STRIVE FOR MAINTENANCE OF DJIBOUTI'S INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, ADDING PARENTHETICALLY, "IN COLLABORATION WITH FREEDOM-LOVING PEOPLES OF TERRITORY, AFRICA AND REST OF WORLD." AFTER CATALOGUING ALLEGED HUMILIATING DEFEATS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE AND LATELY IN HORN OF AFRICA, EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT IMPERIALISTS, HAVING FAILED TO ACHIEVE
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THEIR ENDS THROUGH DIRECT MEANS, ARE NOW STRUGGLING TO ATTAIN THEM THROUGH OTHER METHODS.

3. IT IS EASY TO SPECULATE ABOUT HOW POSSIBLE ETHIOPIAN INTERVENTION IN DJIBOUTI'S AFFAIRS MIGHT BE JUSTIFIED, EITHER AT REQUEST OF AN AFAR GOVT OR TO PRESERVE DJIBOUTI'S "INDEPENDENCE" OR TO COUNTER ANY ALLEGED SOMALI SUBVERSION EFFORTS. HOWEVER, WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE IS ETHIOPIA'S GREATER WILLINGNESS TO DO SO IF SHE BELIEVES IMPORTANT STRATEGIC ASSETS OF RAILWAY AND PORT ARE THREATENED. PROLONGED VISIT TO ADDIS OF LEADING AFAR POLITICIAN AHMED DINI MAY BE IN PREPARATION FOR MORE ACTIVE AFAR CHALLENGE IN DJIBOUTI WITH ETHIOPIAN BACKING.
MATHERON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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